

a.) Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an antibody, wherein said antibody specifically binds an isolated IL-13bc protein consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

Claims 19-45 (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) An isolated antibody that specifically binds a human IL-13bc protein, wherein said human IL-13bc protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acid 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

47. (Currently Amended) The antibody of claim 46, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal ~~antibody or a polyclonal~~ antibody.

48. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 46, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

49. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 48, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 46.

Claims 52-53. (Cancelled).

54. (Previously Presented) An isolated antibody that inhibits binding of IL-13 or fragments of IL-13 to IL-13bc or the IL-13 receptor, wherein said IL-13bc comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

55. (Currently Amended) The antibody of claim 54, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal ~~antibody or a polyclonal~~ antibody.

56. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 54, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

57. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 56, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 54.

Claims 60-61 (Cancelled).

62. (Currently Amended) An isolated antibody to a fragment of IL-13bc, wherein said fragment of IL-13bc comprises amino acids 26-341 or 363-380 of SEQ ID NO:4 and binds to IL-13 with a K_D of from 0.1 to 100 nM.

63. (Currently Amended) The antibody of claim 62, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal ~~antibody or a polyclonal~~ antibody.

64. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 62, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

65. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 64, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

66. (Cancelled).

67. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 62.

Claims 68-77 (Cancelled)

78. (Currently Amended) The antibody to a IL-13bc variant protein encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under hybridization conditions of 0.1X SSC at 65°C followed by wash conditions of 2X SSC at 52°C, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a protein that binds to IL-13.

79. (Currently Amended) The antibody of claim 78, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal ~~antibody or a polyclonal~~ antibody.

80. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 78, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

81. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 80, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

82. (Cancelled).

83. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 78.

Claims 84-85 (Cancelled).

86. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 18, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 87 (Cancelled).

88. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 54, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

89. (Previously Presented) An antibody to a IL-13bc variant protein that is at least about 95% identical to a protein selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4; and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 26 to 341; wherein the IL-13bc variant protein binds to IL-13.

90. (Currently Amended) The ~~body~~ antibody of claim 89, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal ~~antibody or a polyclonal~~ antibody.

91. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 89, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

92. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 91, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

93. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 89.

94. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~claim 94, claim 93,~~ further comprising a pharmaceutical carrier.

Claims 95-131 (Cancelled).